

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

Ronal Avidai Ruano Flores v. Pamela Bondi, Attorney General, et al.

No. 0:26-CV-1678 (D. Minn. Mar. 2, 2026) · No. 0:26-CV-1678 · Decided March 2, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Minnesota granted a detained noncitizen’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. The court ordered the government to return the petitioner to Minnesota if necessary, release the petitioner without new conditions, return seized personal property, and file a compliance report, concluding that the government had not shown the existence of an administrative warrant supporting detention.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Minnesota
WRITING FOR THE COURT	John M. Gerrard
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Minnesota
DECIDED	March 2, 2026
DOCKET	0:26-CV-1678
DISPOSITION	writ_granted
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner sought habeas relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 from allegedly unlawful immigration detention and denial of a bond hearing. The court resolved the petition on the briefs without an evidentiary hearing and granted the writ.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court considered the petition under the habeas procedures of 28 U.S.C. §§ 2241 and 2243 and resolved the presented legal issues without a hearing.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished

TOPICS

- federal habeas corpus
- immigration detention
- remedies
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- immigration
- federal habeas corpus
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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether petitioner was unlawfully detained without a bond hearing under the applicable immigration-detention provisions.
2. Whether the government established that petitioner was arrested pursuant to a warrant triggering detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a).
3. Whether immediate release was an appropriate remedy when the government failed to produce evidence establishing lawful detention.

HOLDINGS

1. The government failed to establish that petitioner was detained pursuant to a warrant or otherwise lawfully detained under the asserted mandatory-detention authority.
2. The petition for a writ of habeas corpus was granted because the government did not establish that petitioner's detention was lawful.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Habeas corpus" may literally mean "have the body," but in the present context it really means "have the warrant," and all the Court has is hearsay from an unnamed ICE functionary."

"Without it, outright release is the appropriate remedy."

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Petitioner, a noncitizen detained by ICE, challenged the denial of a bond hearing under 8 C.F.R. §§ 236.1(d)(1) and 1236.1(d)(1). The government asserted that the detention was mandatory but did not produce an administrative arrest warrant or other proof establishing the legal basis for detention. The court found that the government had been expressly directed to address whether petitioner was arrested pursuant to a warrant and had failed to do so.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The petitioner filed a § 2241 habeas petition challenging ICE detention and the denial of a bond hearing. The government argued that detention was mandatory and that petitioner was ineligible for release. Because the parties' briefing presented only legal issues, the court declined to hold a hearing, granted the petition, ordered immediate release without new conditions, and required a compliance report.

DISPOSITION

writ_granted

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The government shall, if necessary, immediately return petitioner to the District of Minnesota; once petitioner is in Minnesota, it shall immediately release petitioner from custody with no new conditions, return any personal

property seized at detention, and file a status report certifying compliance by March 4, 2026.

CASES CITED

- Velasco Hurtado v. Bondi, No. 0:26-CV-546, 2026 WL 184884 (D. Minn. Jan. 24, 2026)
- Ahmed M. v. Bondi, No. 25-CV-4711, 2026 WL 25627, at *3 (D. Minn. Jan. 5, 2026)
- Fontenot v. Crow, 4 F.4th 982, 1058 (10th Cir. 2021)
- Gladden v. Gidley, 337 F.2d 575, 578 (9th Cir. 1964)
- Walker v. Johnston, 312 U.S. 275 (1941)

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